

Dr. H. D. Oliver, a graduate of London University (Eng.) 1948 and Dr. D. G. Wood, University College, Galway, 1948, were recently commissioned as Surgeon Lieutenants, R.C.N., and appointed for duty in the R.C.N. Hospitals, Halifax, N.S. and Esquimalt, B.C., respectively.

Major N. D. C. McKinnon, Command Hygiene Officer, Western Command, has been appointed Honorary Consultant in Preventive Medicine to the Calgary and Vancouver Districts of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and Major R. A. Smillie, Command Hygiene Officer, Prairie Command, has received a similar appointment to the D.V.A., Winnipeg District.

The following medical officers were recently appointed to commission in the Canadian Army (Active Force): Capt. G. L. Stoker, 11 Detachment, R.C.A.M.C., Vancouver; Capt. M. Chelsky, Toronto Military Hospital. Capt. Stoker graduated from Manitoba University in 1935 and served as an R.C.A.M.C. officer throughout the late war. Captain Chelsky graduated from Toronto University in 1949.

The annual conference of the Command and Area Medical Officers of the Canadian Army was held at Army Headquarters, Ottawa, December 15 and 16, under the Chairmanship of the D.G.M.S., Brigadier W. L. Coke, O.B.E., R.C.A.M.C.

Considerable interest has been shown in the National Defence policy of subsidizing veteran university students in their final year at university. This policy was first instituted for the university year 1948-49 and later extended to cover the 1949-50 term. Veteran students under this plan receive a commission in the Armed Forces and draw pay and allowances of their rank. University fees are paid by the Department and requisite textbooks and instruments are supplied. Thirty-two final year medical students are presently training under this plan, 9 having received commissions in the R.C.N., 17 in the R.C.A.M.C., and 6 in the R.C.A.F. Of this group 18 are attending the University of Toronto, 11 the University of Western Ontario, 2 McGill University and 1 Dalhousie University.

Under the same plan, 5 final year pharmacy students have been commissioned in the R.C.A.M.C. Similarly, 22 dental students have received commissions in the R.C.D.C.

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## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

### The London Letter

(From our own correspondent)

SIR WILSON JAMESON

The announcement of the forthcoming retirement of Sir Wilson Jameson from the post of Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health and of the Ministry of Education marks the ending of the active professional career of one of the greatest figures in the public health service of the country. Sir Wilson had the inestimable advantage of coming to his present appointment from a life spent outside Government service. A graduate of the university of Aberdeen, he had already had practical experience as a medical officer of health before being appointed Professor of Public Health in the University of London. As dean and director of the division of public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine he showed his gifts for administration and the handling of men, and it was from this post that, in November, 1940, he was appointed to his present key position in the Ministry of Health. His task was not an enviable one, but as medical officer responsible for the health of the nation during those try-

ing years of war he rose nobly to the occasion. The record of the nation's health during these years is a striking tribute to the skill with which he directed and co-ordinated the civilian medical services.

When the war was over an almost equally formidable task awaited him as chief medical adviser to the Minister of Health during the tempestuous negotiations with the medical profession over the introduction of the National Health Service Act. It is a striking tribute to the skill with which he performed this task that no word of criticism ever attached to him no matter how bitterly the Minister might be assailed. As *The Times* aptly expresses it, his "shrewd counsel and persuasive Highland voice always struck the note of responsible and skilled public service".

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS

The appeal of the youngest Royal College for £400,000 has received an auspicious opening by a gift of £1,000 from the Queen who has just been admitted to honorary fellowship of the College "for all she has done for the benefit of British womanhood, for the great example she has given us of domestic happiness, and for her constant support of the college". The main purpose of the appeal is to provide funds for a new building for the college which has outgrown its present home in Queen Anne Street. It is proposed to allocate £200,000 for this purpose, whilst £150,000 is for research and general funds, and £50,000 for a travelling professorship. The college has made remarkable progress since it was incorporated twenty years ago, and one of its unique features is that it is a commonwealth college governed by a council in this country, with regional councils in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. To appeal for such a large sum at the present moment is an act of faith in keeping with the youthfulness of the college, but if the old adage is still true that "by their fruits shall ye know them", then there is every reason to believe that the appeal will not be in vain.

### REMUNERATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

"The Minister cannot, therefore, entertain any claim by the Association for larger total remuneration. Moreover, quite apart from this clear conclusion, to which the analysis of the facts must lead him, the Minister would point out that the Association's proposals have to be seen also against the background of the general economic situation and the vital national need to avoid any unjustified raising of remuneration in any field. Under such conditions it becomes even more apparent that it would not be possible for him to justify any increase for general medical practitioners at the present time". (Extract from a letter from the permanent secretary to the Ministry of Health to the secretary of the British Medical Association, November 14, 1949.)

"His present attitude can but alienate practitioners still further. Many of them were persuaded to enter the service on the understanding that the suggested pool of money provided was but an interim payment made to allow proper discussion of terms with their representatives in the light of the Spens promises, with full weight given to changing money values. They believed they had found in the Spens proposals a new and agreed approach to equitable terms. Instead they are now met with the Minister's blunt refusal to depart from the basis for their remuneration which he himself originally laid down without consultation". Editorial, *The Lancet*, November 26, 1949.

Little comment is called for in amplification of these two extracts, except to point out that throughout the whole of the controversy surrounding the introduction and initiation of the national health service, the policy of *The Lancet* has been to try and bring the two sides together. It is a somewhat pessimistic note on which to end the old year, but no more pessimistic than is the outlook for the general practitioner who sees nothing ahead of him in 1950 but increasing hardship for himself and his wife as he tries to ensure that, whatever else may suffer as a result of his rapidly diminishing

income, it will not be the education of his youngsters for which he has planned so long and which was dependent upon his continuing to earn the income which he had in the pre-1948 days.

LONDON, December, 1949. WILLIAM A. R. THOMSON

## OBITUARIES

At the time of going to press we learn with the deepest regret of the death of Dr. Fulton Gillespie, of Edmonton. An extended notice will appear later.

**Mrs. Alexander Bruce, M.D.**, formerly Dr. Catherine Bradshaw, died in Montreal on November 24. Born in Manchester, England, in 1872, Mrs. Bruce came to Toronto in 1877 with her family. She attended high school there and was one of the first women medical students in Canada. She graduated with honours from University of Toronto. Her appointment on the staff of the Philadelphia Women's Hospital made her one of the first two Canadian women ever to be given an appointment in an American hospital. She took post-graduate courses in Baltimore and later returned to Toronto to practise. She retired from medical practice when she married in 1904 and had resided in Montreal since that time. She was an active member of St. Andrew's Church in Westmount, Montreal Women's University Club, Women's Canadian Club, and the Women's Art Society of Montreal. She is survived by a son and two daughters.

**Dr. Donald W. Buchanan** died at his home in Bath, N.B., on November 12. Dr. Buchanan was born at Neil's Harbour, Cape Breton in 1900. He was a graduate of Mount Allison Academy and received his medical education at Queen's University, where he graduated in 1927. In the First Great War he served with the artillery and was a member of the Murmansk Contingent. He was senior resident at the Saint John General Hospital. Here and elsewhere he made many friends. He had practised at Cambridge, Minto, and at the time of his death he was on the staff of the Bath Private Hospital. In spite of recurring illness Dr. Buchanan maintained a keen interest in affairs and will be remembered for the firmness of his friendships. He is survived by his wife, three sisters and three brothers.

**Dr. Walter H. Cameron**, aged 70, physician to the Mond Nickel Co. at Copper Cliff and Coniston, died November 20 at St. Petersburg, Fla. Born in Arthur, and an honour graduate of the University of Toronto Medical College in 1905, he had practised for several years in Thessalon. In Toronto he was a member of the Rosedale Presbyterian Church. He is survived by three sons and two brothers.

**Dr. William Alexander Chisholm** died suddenly on November 3 in Mount Dora, Florida. He was born at Salt Springs, Antigonish County, in 1866. He studied at Pictou Academy, was graduated in arts from St. Francis Xavier University, and taught school in different parts of Antigonish and Guysboro counties before studying medicine. After attending the Medical School of Dalhousie University he entered Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, and graduated with honours. He practised his profession in that city for over 30 years with distinction until his retirement. Surviving besides his widow are two sisters.

**Dr Ernest Cliche** est décédé à l'âge de 71 ans et 11 mois, à East-Broughton, Que., le 11 novembre. Il obtint son doctorat en médecine de l'Université Laval en 1902. Le Dr Cliche fut le premier médecin de sa place natale. Il y exerça sa profession jusqu'à ces tout derniers temps. Il laisse son épouse, 4 fils, 2 filles et 2 frères.

**Dr. Allan S. Eagles**, aged 69, medical practitioner in Meaford for 32 years and former medical officer of health for St. Vincent Township, died on November 23. He graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1911. Surviving are his widow, two daughters, one son, five brothers and two sisters.

**Dr. Emerson S. Hill**, aged 51, died in Torrington, Conn. on October 26. A native of Maxville, Ont., he took his degree in medicine at McGill University.

**Dr. Perry O. King**, of St. Thomas, Ont., died unexpectedly on November 11, of a heart attack. He was 64. Born in St. Thomas he graduated in medicine from the University of Western Ontario in 1911. He was one of the veteran members of the St. Thomas Golf and Country Club; a life member of St. Thomas Lodge No. 44, A.F. & A.M.; and an active member for years of the St. Thomas and Elgin Medical Association. He was a member of Trinity Anglican Church. Surviving are his widow, a daughter, a son and a brother.

**Le docteur Victor Philippe Landry** est décédé à Montréal le 30 octobre dernier après une longue maladie. Il était âgé de 72 ans. Né à Valmont, le 20 juin 1877, il avait fait ses études au séminaire des Trois-Rivières et à l'université Laval de Québec où il fut diplômé de la Faculté de médecine en 1904. Il pratiqua sa profession à Bécancour de 1904 à 1913, où il se spécialisa dans la médecine générale. Outre son épouse, lui survivent quatre filles, huit fils, quatre sœurs et un frère.

**Dr Arthur Lapointe** est décédé à l'âge de 83 ans et 6 mois. Né à La Malbaie, le 15 août 1866, il fit ses études au séminaire de Chicoutimi. Il obtenait son doctorat en médecine de l'université Laval en 1892. La même année, il alla s'établir à La Malbaie où il exerça sa profession durant 57 ans. Pendant le cours de sa longue carrière, le Dr Lapointe a eu le rare mérite d'être appelé pour au moins 10,000 naissances. C'était un gynécologue dont la réputation s'étendait bien au delà de La Malbaie. En dépit de la lourde tâche que lui imposait sa profession, il accepta d'être maire de La Malbaie, poste qu'il occupa très brillamment pendant 20 ans. On peut dire qu'il fut un des principaux promoteurs de toutes les améliorations importantes qui se firent dans la région depuis un demi-siècle. Il a largement contribué à la construction du chemin de fer, de l'aqueduc, du service électrique, du téléphone et en ces dernières années, de l'hôpital. Il laisse son épouse, deux fils et quatre filles.

**Dr Ernest Lapointe** est décédé récemment à l'hôpital Notre-Dame de l'Espérance de Ville S.-Laurent, à l'âge de 56 ans. Il avait fait ses études au séminaire de Ste-Thérèse et à l'université de Montréal. Outre son épouse il laisse deux frères et une sœur.

**Dr. John A. McAsh**, aged 85, died on November 13. Born in Bayfield Rd., near Verna, he graduated from University of Toronto. He had practised in Belgrave, Sarnia and for 40 years in Tara. He was an elder in Knox Presbyterian Church and had also served on the Tara School Board. He was a member of the Royal Arch Masons and the I.O.O.F. Surviving are a son, a daughter, a brother and a sister.

**Dr. Wesley N. McCormick**, aged 64, died suddenly on November 1 in Listowel Memorial Hospital, shortly after he had suffered a heart attack. He was born in Elma township. After graduating from Listowel High School, he taught for several years, later going to University of Western Ontario, London, where he graduated in 1913. From 1914 to 1918 he served overseas with the Medical Corps. On his return to Canada he started practice in Toronto in 1919, and was there until he retired in 1945, and came to Listowel. He was a member of Listowel United Church, of Listowel Lodge No. 160 I.O.O.F., and Listowel Branch No. 259 Canadian Legion. Besides his sister he is survived by a brother.